

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 161136Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8967

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5078

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN ECG

REF: OSLO 5040

1. AT REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE PHONED DCM AFTER WORK ON NOVEMBER 14 TO REPORT FRYDENLUND HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN THAT DAY FROM OTHER (BY IMPLICATION HIGH) OFFICIALS REGARDING INDICATION IN BINDER NY TIMES ARTICLE (REFTEL) THAT US WAS OPPOSED TO GRANTING NORWAY ANY FORM OF ASSOCIATE STATUS WITHIN ENERGY COORDINATING GROUP (ECG). OFFICIALS WERE DESCRIBED AS EXPRESSING RESENTMENT OF U.S. PRESSURE.

2. AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ON NOV. 15, FRYDENLUND JOINED VIBE FOR LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF ECG ISSUE WITH DCM. GROUP WAS LATER JOINED BY UK AMBASSADOR SELBY. FRYDENLUND AGAIN EXPLAINED WHY, EVEN IF GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE PUSHED FULL ECG MEMBERSHIP THROUGH STORTING WITH 10-15 VOTE MARGIN, VICTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN PYRRHIC ONE, GIVING OPPONENTS OF ECG MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY THEY SEEK TO EXTEND DEBATE TO NATO MEMBERSHIP. HE INSISTED THAT "BAD CONSCIENCE" OF CENTER AND CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S

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PARTIES ABOUT NOT ENTERING ECG WOULD PERMIT NORWAY

TO JOIN ON TERMS CLOSE TO FULL MEMBERSHIP.IT  
WOULD NOT BE IN US OR UK'S INTEREST TO FORCE A  
DIVISIVE DEBATE ON FULL MEMBERSHIP NOW WHEN  
NORWAY MIGHT WELL MOVE FROM ASSOCIATE TO FULL  
MEMBERSHIP IN A FEW YEARS.

3. DESCRIBING POSSIBLE TERMS OF ASSOCIATE MEMBER-  
SHIP, FRYDENLUND SAID NORWAY WOULD PLEDGE (A)  
TO CUT BACK CONSUMPTION BY AN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT  
TO MORE THAN WHAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REQUIRED  
TO PROVIDE AS FULL MEMBER; (B) TO CONTINUE ITS  
OIL EXPORTS TO WESTERN EUROPE WHERE 90 PERCENT OF  
OIL EXPORTS WOULD NORMALLY GO; AND (C) INCREASE  
DELIVERIES IF NECESSARY. FRYDENLUND SIDESTEPED  
QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE COMMITMENT OF A SPECIFIC  
VOLUME OF DELIVERIES, AND VIBE LATER SAID HE  
DOUBTED GOVERNMENT COULD AGREE TO CITE A SPECIFIC  
FIGURE, BUT AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE CLEAR FACT  
THAT NORWAY WOULD COME TO WEST'S AID IN ANY CRISIS.

4. FRYDENLUND ASKED BLUNTLY WHETHER US AND UK  
WOULD AGREE TO CONSIDER SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATE  
STATUS. HE SAID HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE ASKED  
THIS QUESTION IN DEBATE ON NOVEMBER 19, HE WAS  
WORKING ON HIS REMARKS OVER THIS WEEKEND, AND WOULD  
LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY US AND UK COULD NOT OPPOSE  
ASSOCIATE STATUS. HE THEN REFERRED TO INDICATIONS  
NORWAY HAD RECEIVED EARLIER FROM US IN WASHINGTON  
THAT SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATE STATUS WOULD AT LEAST  
BE CONSIDERED, AND NOT ENTIRELY JOKING, HE EXPRESSED  
CONFIDENCE THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD NOT  
TURN HIS BACK ON AN OLD PUPIL. UK AMBASSADOR  
SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT THE REACTION OF HIS  
GOVERNMENT UNTIL IT WAS CLEAR NORWAY WOULD NOT  
CHANGE ITS MIND ON FULL MEMBERSHIP--  
A POSSIBILITY WHICH FRYDENLUND REITERATED WAS  
OUT OF THE QUESTION.

5. ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHAT HE WISHES FROM US  
AND UK, FRYDENLUND SAID HE HOPED WE WOULD SUPPORT  
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PROPOSAL AT ECG MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18 THAT  
DAVIGNON BE FORMALLY ENPOWERED TO DISCUSS WITH  
NORWAY POSSIBLE TERMS OF ASSOCIATION WITH ECG.  
HE ASKED DCM SEVERAL TIMES WHETHER HE THOUGHT  
EMBASSY WOULD RECEIVE SOME GUIDANCE FROM  
DEPARTMENT BEFORE HIS SPEECH ON TUESDAY. IT WAS  
OBVIOUS HE FEELS UNDER GREAT PRESSURE AND IS  
AWAITING OUT THE VERDICT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO INFORM  
FRYDENLUND BY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT THE LATEST  
WHETHER OR NOT U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER  
ASSOCIATE STATUS FOR NORWAY IN ECG.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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